

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 348  
By Tindell

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Jean Smith on being selected as  
2003 Tennessee Mother of the Year.

WHEREAS, a poet once wrote, "A mother is one who understands the things you say and do / Who always overlooks your faults and sees the best in you / A mother is one whose special love inspires you day by day / Who fills your heart with gladness in her warm and thoughtful way"; and

WHEREAS, one mother who fits this description is Jean Smith, who was recently selected as 2003 Mother of the Year by the Tennessee Mothers Association of American Mothers, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration of the qualifications of many candidates, the Tennessee Mothers Association of American Mothers, Inc. selects one outstanding individual as Mother of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Jean Smith was chosen because, throughout all the different facets of life, she has demonstrated the highest characteristics of American motherhood and has remained steadfast in her support of the family as the anchor of a strong and healthy society; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith was nominated by the Knoxville Parents Association for the Rights of Educating Non-Traditional Students (PARENTS), an organization which she helped to found in January of 1986; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith continues to serve as a Director and Board Member of PARENTS, an organization whose purpose is to promote the full implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and to secure appropriate, inclusive education for all students; and

WHEREAS, through Mrs. Smith's ceaseless efforts, PARENTS was able to oversee the closing of the Knoxville Adaptive Education Center, a school for children with disabilities only; children with disabilities are now educated in public schools, and they are enrolling in classes never before available to them, including computer classes; and

WHEREAS, Jean Smith's daughter, Carol, has limited use of her hands due to Cerebral Palsy; due to Mrs. Smith's support and advocacy for the educational needs of students with disabilities, Carol was the first student with significant physical disabilities that was fully included in general education classes in her high school; and

WHEREAS, Carol graduated from South Doyle High School; she is currently attending Pellissippi State Community College, and, along with her mother, is a Director for PARENTS; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her most impressive and honorable work with PARENTS, Mrs. Smith and her husband, Billy, helped a group of parents to found the East Tennessee Technology Access Center, Inc.; now in its fifteenth year, ETTAC is a regional, nonprofit agency that helps people with disabilities gain knowledge about and access to assistive technology devices; and

WHEREAS, ETTAC's mission is to help people with disabilities gain education and employment skills, perform activities of daily living, and lead more independent, productive lives; the Center now reaches over 6,000 people a year through a wide range of services; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith, with the help of her daughter, has also testified before the United States Senate subcommittee on the reauthorization of the Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act, and the two are on a Human Rights Committee in which they review reported violations of the rights of people with developmental disabilities living in the community; and

WHEREAS, Jean Smith is highly admired for her fierce determination in the face of many obstacles; she constantly seeks opportunities to inform and instruct, while at the same time insisting that existing laws be enforced; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith has helped many parents of children with disabilities through her volunteer activities with the East Tennessee Cerebral Palsy Center and the Muscular Dystrophy Association of East Tennessee; she helps other parents find financial support for children with disabilities who need wheelchairs, lifts, communication devices, and other equipment and services; and

WHEREAS, with her husband and her daughter, she is involved in many local, state, and national organizations; the Smith family also attends various conferences each year, such as Tech Parents, the Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps, and the Closing the Gap Conference; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith believes in the ability and potential of children and adults with disabilities, and this belief is reflected in everything she does; and

WHEREAS, Jean Smith has been elected the 2003 Tennessee Mother of the Year, and she is the Tennessee Nominee for National Mother of the Year, sponsored by Mothers, Inc., an organization of women and men, married and single, parents and grandparents, dedicated to preserving the moral and spiritual foundations of the family in America; and

WHEREAS, she truly exemplifies the best traits of American motherhood and is the portrait of good citizenship; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Jean Smith for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee as an exemplary mother to, and role model for, our State's future and our children. We congratulate Mrs. Smith on being selected as the 2003 Tennessee Mother of the Year, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.